



Philippine government workers use a steamroller to crush smuggled elephant tusks.

## TAKING STOCK

A GROWING NUMBER OF COUNTRIES ARE CRUSHING THEIR IVORY STOCKPILES  
IN A STAND AGAINST A DEADLY TRADE // BY CATHERINE VINCENTI

**THE TWO LARGEST** ivory markets in the world have sent an unambiguous message to poachers and trafficking networks worldwide.

The ivory statues, chess sets, necklaces, bracelets, buttons, and hair combs: None of it is welcome here.

In November, the U.S. government crushed nearly 6 tons of confiscated ivory. With encouragement from the United States and advocates around the world, including The HSUS, Humane Society International, and local groups in China, the Chinese government then crushed 6 tons of its own illegal stockpiles in January.

The symbolic crushes were executed in an effort to stop the annual slaughter of an estimated 30,000 African elephants, to encourage international collaboration in combating the illegal wildlife trade, and to raise consumer awareness of the cruelty behind an ivory trinket or piece of jewelry.

“Witnessing the destruction of items

that represented thousands of massacred elephants was an emotional experience,” says Iris Ho, HSI wildlife program manager, who attended both crush events. “It’s an excellent first step for all countries concerned to address their markets by first destroying what they have in their stockpiles.”

In February, the White House unveiled its National Strategy for Combating Wildlife Trafficking, with the goal of stopping virtually all commercial trade in elephant ivory and rhino horn within the U.S. and across its borders. All commercial imports of African



elephant ivory will be prohibited. While several loopholes still need to be addressed, wildlife advocates hope this action will drive down demand by sending the message that ivory has no value here.

To further strengthen this initiative, The HSUS and HSI are working with state lawmakers and advocates in New York and Hawaii to prohibit ivory sales in two of the country’s top ivory markets.

The steps taken by the U.S. and China have spurred others to action: France recently destroyed 3 tons of ivory, Prince William vowed to destroy Buckingham Palace’s extensive collection, and Hong Kong (a crucial transport hub for the illegal trade) pledged to destroy 28 tons plus any future seizures.

There is a human toll to address too, as hundreds of African park rangers have been killed by poachers. Says Ho, “It’s so important to inform the public that their purchases and choices impact not just elephants, but also local communities in Africa.”

# A FORCE FOR ALL

MISSISSIPPI OFFICER A CONSISTENT ALLY FOR ANIMALS // BY MICHAEL SHARP

**THOSE BIG BLACK EYES** seemed to plead with Phyllis Olds.

The chief deputy discovered the shepherd mix in the backyard of a gruesome hoarding case last year in southern Mississippi. The dog was losing a fight against mange. Her hair was gone. She had scratched sores into her pink skin. And then, there were those eyes—“just looking at you, like, *do something.*”

The image of that dog—shelter workers would later name her “Pinkie”—has stayed with Olds, who time and again has seemed to answer that plea for action. That day, she helped save 117 dogs. Another time, it was six starving horses. And another day still, some 20 neglected horses, rabbits, goats, chickens, and turkeys.

“I wish we had more law enforcement officers like chief deputy Phyllis,” says Lydia Sattler, HSUS Mississippi state director, who in February presented Olds with a 2013 Humane Law Enforcement Award. Officers from 10 states were chosen for the honor this year.

“I don’t worry about her county. I don’t have people calling me and saying they reported abuse to law enforcement but they didn’t respond to their complaints—which happens very frequently. She’s always really on top of things. She takes everything seriously.”

In 2010, Olds and the Stone County Sheriff’s Department busted a cockfighting ring, arresting 42 people—and later securing 42 con-

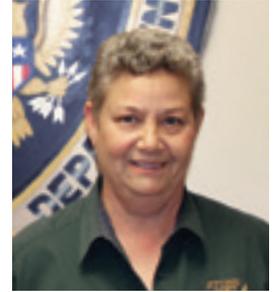
victions. Two years later, she teamed with The HSUS to rescue 74 small-breed dogs from a puppy mill.

And then, last March: Pinkie’s case. After pushing their way into the house—dead dogs lay against the inside of the door—rescuers were greeted with the horrific scene of two starving dogs eating another.

In the aftermath, Olds would check on Pinkie and the others at least twice a week, bringing food out to the shelters. “Loving, loving, loving,” she remembers of that dog, once so close to death, now adopted into a home. “It was like, everything you had done for her, it was like she couldn’t show you enough love to show you how much she appreciated it.”

Sattler later echoed the sentiment, noting this particular case snapped a cycle of abuse dating back seven years: Twice before, it turns out, the owner had faced similar complaints in other counties, but Stone County was the first to secure a conviction for animal abuse and neglect. “We’re so grateful that she had the courage and the willingness to act.” That, along with just the sheer brutality of the case—Sattler remembers officers crying at the scene—factored into the national award.

“It meant a lot,” Olds says now of the honor, “because it meant ... somebody was actually speaking up for something that couldn’t speak for itself. The award was great, and I was very surprised by it. But I do this for the animals, because the cruelty and abuse has just got to stop. It’s got to stop.”



Chief deputy Phyllis Olds (top) spearheaded a raid of this hoarding property in Mississippi, helping to save Pinkie (shown at left).

## QUOTED

**"IT'S COMPLETELY INHUMANE. IT'S A TRAVESTY,"**



Chicago city clerk

Susana Mendoza said about the conditions for dogs at puppy mills, according to the *Chicago Sun-Times*. "They're kept in very confined, tight quarters where they can't even move around. They are in their own excrement. They're not cleaned. They get no exercise." Mendoza made the comments in February while introducing an ordinance requiring Chicago pet stores to sell only dogs and cats from rescues and shelters. A month later, the council passed the measure, adding Chicago to the list of more than 40 U.S. and Canadian cities with similar ordinances.

## BY THE NUMBERS

**78,528** signatures were submitted by the HSUS-supported coalition Mainers for Fair Bear Hunting to Maine's secretary of state in February, thus putting an initiative to ban bear baiting, trapping, and hounding on the state's 2014 ballot. Maine is the last state to allow all three practices. The number of signatures gathered far exceeds the 57,277 needed to qualify for the November ballot.

## SIGN OF THE TIMES

**FOLLOWING THE WORST** year on record for sick and injured manatees, the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens plans to build a critical care center for the endangered animals. There are currently only three such centers in the state, often making for a long and difficult journey by truck. The new care center, slated to open within a year, will have pools with floors that can be raised and lowered for treatment and a life support system to heat and clean the water. Once recovered, the manatees will be returned to the wild.

## NO MORE STALLING

TYSON, OTHERS MOVE AGAINST PIG CRATES

// BY KAREN E. LANGE

**THE NEWS WAS HUGE AND,** for all The HSUS's efforts to stop the cruel confinement of pregnant sows, startling in its speed: Early this year, two of the largest pork companies in the United States signaled an end to the gestation crate era.

Smithfield Foods, the world's No. 1 pork producer, announced it would offer financial incentives to contract farmers who stop confining pigs in crates so small the animals can't turn around. Then Tyson Foods, the world's second-largest meat processor, told its farmers that future sow housing should allow the pigs to turn around.

"It's an earthquake," says Paul Shapiro, HSUS vice president of farm animal protection.

Smithfield, which had already committed to ending the use of gestation crates on company-owned farms by 2017, announced in January that it will also require its contract farmers, who represent 40 percent of its breeding operations, to phase out gestation crates by 2022. Those who convert earlier will receive economic incentives, Smithfield said.

The company cited demand from current and potential customers: At The HSUS's encouragement, more than 60 major companies—including McDonald's, SuperValu, IHOP, and Applebee's—have said they'll eliminate pork from farms that confine pigs in gestation crates. Instead, they want farms to house sows in groups, allowing them to move around.

A day after Smithfield's announcement, Tyson advised its farmers to eliminate gestation crates in new or redesigned barns, starting this year. That came after industry analysts reported Tyson's use of crates to be economically risky. Regulations, laws, corporate policies, and public sentiment are changing, the analysts warned.

Soon after, Wendy's—already among the scores of companies that have pledged to phase gestation crate pork out of their supply chains—stepped up the pressure in the fast-food sector, asking producers to provide quarterly reports on progress toward ending the use of gestation crates. And in another major move, Canadian officials announced that any facilities built or renovated after July 1 must use group housing—and that, by 2024, all facilities must have phased out gestation crates.

But some remain unmoved, including Seaboard Foods and Prestage Farms, two major U.S. producers. Recent HSUS investigations at factory farms owned by both companies revealed sows suffering in crates, some with bloody mouths and noses and infected wounds from gnawing and pushing on the bars.



## "IT'S AN EARTHQUAKE"

— PAUL SHAPIRO, HSUS VICE PRESIDENT OF FARM ANIMAL PROTECTION

This year The HSUS put up four donor-funded billboards along Interstate 40, which runs near Prestage's eastern North Carolina headquarters. "Traffic not moving?" the billboards say. "Try never moving." Looming over the highway is a photo of the dark interior of a factory farm. It shows the faces of crated sows.